



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Bollingberg Sentenced on Mail Fraud Conviction

BISMARCK - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley announced that **Brian T. Bollingberg**, 42, of Cathay, North Dakota, was sentenced on December 19, 2005, before United States District Court Senior Judge Patrick A. Conmy on one count of mail fraud. **Bollingberg** pleaded guilty on November 15, 2005.

Judge Conmy sentenced **Bollingberg** to five years of federal probation following his release from the North Dakota State Penitentiary, where he is presently serving a five-year prison sentence for deceptive writings in a Wells County cattle-fraud case. **Bollingberg** was also ordered to pay restitution of \$198,550 to John C. McDonald, Jr., of Forest River, ND, and to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

In April 1993 **Bollingberg** entered into a share-cattle agreement to raise cattle for John McDonald. Between 1993 and 1999 McDonald delivered bred cows to **Bollingberg** under their share-cattle agreement. **Bollingberg** advised McDonald by letters sent at different times through the United States mail of the number of cattle being raised and held for McDonald by **Bollingberg**, including a letter in January 2000 in which **Bollingberg** indicated McDonald then had 253 cows under the share-cattle agreement. In September of 2000 **Bollingberg** should have had in his care and custody 253 cows plus calves belonging to McDonald, worth a total value of over \$200,000; however, at that time **Bollingberg** claimed he had no cattle belonging to McDonald.

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McDonald then recovered only five of his cows that were in a separate summer pasture away from the **Bollingberg** farm. Agents of the North Dakota Stockmen's Association executed a State of North Dakota search warrant on the **Bollingberg** farm in June 2001, but found no cows or calves.

When the Stockmen's Association investigation hit a dead end upon the expiration of the statute of limitations for charging **Bollingberg** under state law, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service adopted the case in 2003 as a combined federal-state investigation. The federal case was spearheaded by investigators from the United States Postal Inspection Service and North Dakota Stockmen's Association, with assistance from the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Wells County State's Attorney's Office.

Assistant United States Attorney Scott J. Schneider said, "The defendant in this case took advantage of a hardworking man and stole cattle intended for the McDonalds' retirement income. The investigators from the Stockmen's Association and Postal Inspection Service would not let this crime go unpunished, and the U.S. Attorney's Office will continue to aid the McDonalds in obtaining restitution."

Assistant United States Attorney Scott J. Schneider prosecuted the case.

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